

To Whom it May Concern:

We are an incredibly fortunate society, living where we all share in the freedom to express and practice our religion, and to speak freely about what we believe in. It would no longer be truly America if these rights of religion and speech were taken from us. One of the most freely available locations to express these rights currently is through radio broadcast. My family, as well as a large number of our friends and extended family, truly enjoy broadcasts from Christian stations such as Klove and our local station WBGL in Illinois. These stations are inspirational, encouraging, and provide a much needed refuge amongst the many other forms of media that are anything but encouraging. The recommendations by the FCC to change the requirements for broadcasts such as these will make it difficult, if not impossible, for some of these stations to continue serving the community.

First, to require community advisory boards, consisting of individuals who represent all differing views from within the community, is unreasonable and will ultimately place at risk the integrity of Christian radio. The government would not be permitted to create advisory boards for all churches/clubs, who would recommend what could be said on the pulpit, and neither should any societal "board" be allowed to recommend or require what can be preached from the radio pulpit. Every individual in our society has a right to choose whether to listen to a particular radio station. If he or she does not agree with the religious message being presented, the channel can always be changed. However, if government regulations suddenly require that all differing viewpoints be represented on a radio station, this would completely destroy the integrity of the Christian message being shared. Differing viewpoints can be represented on a separate station. They don't need to all share the same wavelength of radio.

Second, some of the requirements proposed by the FCC create difficulty for stations which are low on funding. This is not a fair treatment, and does not permit all individuals to practice speech and religion equally. Just as non-profit agencies are permitted to run on different regulations than for-profit companies, radio that is funded by its listeners should never be required to be staffed similarly or spend money the same way as radio which is funded by commercials. To require that a station always be staffed is unnecessary and preferential towards large, commercial-funded radio.

I urge the FCC to withdraw these proposals, which will ultimately take away rights of the citizens of this country. We all share in and are proud to be given the rights of expressing ourselves through religion and speech. Please do not enact regulations that will cause these rights to be only a part of our past.